Relations with Pakistan

1921. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the relation between India and Pakistan has detriorated recently with the repeated violation of ceasefire on the border by Pakistan army, bombing of Indian Embassy in Kabul allegedly by Pakistan's ISI activists *etc.*;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether our Prime Minister had met Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in New York; and

(d) if so, the details of discussion and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes.

(b) The involvement of Pakistan in terrorism in India has been a factor overshadowing the overall context and content of Indo-Pak relations for a long time and has undermined progress in the bilateral dialogue process.

(c) and (d) Prime Minister met President Asif Ali Zardari on 24th September 2008 in New York. Both leaders acknowledged that the peace process has been under strain in recent months. They agreed that violence, hostility and terrorism have no place in the vision they share of the bilateral relationship, and must be visibly and verifiably prevented. Severe action would be taken against any elements directing or involved in terrorist acts. President Zardari reassured Prime Minister Singh that the Government of Pakistan stands by its commitments of January 6, 2004 of not permitting any territory under its control to be used to support terrorism in any manner.

Atomic park in Pakistan

†1922. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan is preparing to establish atomic park;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Government have seen press reports about Pakistan's interest in setting up "nuclear parks" as a means to attack foreign investors interested in setting up private nuclear power plants. The stated reason for this is to meet the country's growing energy requirements.

Terrorist carnage in Mumbai

1923. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether he mentioned in his address to the Nation in the wake of terrorist carnage in Mumbai since 26th November, 2008 that he had requested the authority in Pakistan to depute the Director General of Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) to India for participating in investigation into the incident;

(b) if so, whether the concerned Pakistani authority conceded to that request; and

(c) the current status of its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) I have not addressed the nation. PM in his address to the nation on 27th November did not mention the matter of DG ISI Pakistan.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Deaths in Cyclone Nargis

1924. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that more than one lakh people have been killed and million could die due to Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar (Burma); and

(b) if so, the steps that have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) In the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis in May 2008, India was one of the first countries to rush emergency relief assistance to Myanmar. Two Indian Naval ships and eight Indian Air Force aircrafts delivered immediate relief material, including food grains, roofing material and medical supplies to Myanmar. Two self-sustained medical teams, comprising 47 doctors and supporting staff, were in the cyclone-affected areas for more than two weeks. India also provided cash assistance of US$ 200,000 for the reconstruction of the Shwedagon Pagoda Complex in Yangon. In the rehabilitation phase, India has supplied 1020 tonnes of corrugated steel sheets for roofing, 500 solar torches and lanterns and 1.8 lakh bottles of I.V. fluids and will undertake supply of transformers and other necessary items required by Myanmar.

Terrorist training camps

1925. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various terrorist organizations are running their training camps in Pakistan and Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry has recently summoned Pakistani High Commissioner consequent to the massive terrorist attack in Mumbai;

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether there are proof of Pakistan's involvement in this attack; and